

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
DEMOCRAT

E. 84,691
S. 103,346

FEB 6 1966

Curbing the CIA

In a highly technological civilization, in a time when so much distrust exists between governments, it is admitted that a system of espionage is important. Practically every nation in the world has such a system, but in most nations, government leaders responsible to the people exert a strong regulatory control over general espionage policy.

But that's not true in the United States. The Central Intelligence Agency goes its merry way without any effective control from Congress. Its full scope of operations, due to the nature of the work, is unknown to the public and to Congress. Even the cost of this agency is a carefully guarded secret, as if someone could decipher all the CIA's activities simply by knowing how much money it spends.

This agency gives no sign of effective liaison with military intelligence or of guidance from the State Department. This might be condoned if CIA came up with brilliant successes at spying, cognizable after the event. But in two of our most dangerous areas, Cuba and Viet Nam, CIA has been of questionable value in learning what was occurring, or what was likely to occur. Furthermore, CIA agents have been spotted acting as if they were making foreign policy.

Some members of Congress want an investigation to determine if criticism of the CIA is justified and to expose the connection between policy-making and espionage. It's not going to be easy for the lawmakers to look into the workings of the CIA. The CIA people will claim the spotlight will affect the security of the nation. They may even have the support of the President.

However, the people need only realize that a secret hierarchy, once entrenched, will forever resist attempts at control, however prudent, by the free society supporting it.